11 August, 2006 and its follow up. The Government is keeping all options open and will take further steps depending on its assessment of the situation.

Multiple visa for longer period

2907. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not giving multiple visa and that too for longer period to the people belonging to Afghanistan living in Kabul or U.K. or other countries;

(b) the policy to give return multiple visa to Hindu and Sikh outstees of Afghanistan now living in India;

(c) whether Government are aware that due to exodus many families were separated, some are living in India, U.K. or other countries; and

(d) whether there is any humanitarian scheme of his Ministry for unfortunate people who have suffered on account of religious bias?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Indian Missions abroad grant appropriate visas to Afghan nationals on request after usual checks.

(b) Afghan nationals of Hindu and Sikh community staying in India, who are registered with foreigners Regional Registration Offices or foreigners Registration Offices are granted re-entry facility once a year for a maximum period of three months for (i) disposal of their property in Afghanistan or (ii) visiting a country other than Afghanistan and Pakistan, if the request, if found, justified.

(c) and (d) Afghan nationals displaced due to disturbances in their country have been allowed to stay in India as refugees on the basis of certificates issued by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) till they are rehabilitated in the third country by UNHCR.

Nuclear expansion programme by Pakistan

2908. DR. M. A. M. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has embarked upon further nuclear expansion programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Pakistan Government have informed the Indian Government about its nuclear programme as claimed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Central Government to safeguard our country's interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Government is aware that Pakistan has actively pursued a clandestine nuclear weapons programme for more than three decades and has plans for expansion of its nuclear programme. Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson, on 24 July 2006, said that Pakistan is a nuclear weapons state and the details of Pakistan's nuclear facilities and programme cannot be divulged.

(c) and (d) As per the Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan signed on 31 December 1988 and ratified on 27 January 1991, every year on 1 January, a list of the locational coordinates of nuclear facilities in both the countries are exchanged. this list was last exchanged on 1 January 2006.

(e) Government regularly monitors proliferation trends in the neighbourhood. Government remains fully vigilant and takes all necessary steps to safeguard India's security and national interests.

Joint control in J&K

†2909. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS.SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has placed a proposal of joint control in some of the areas in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government have held talks with Pakistan regarding ongoing infiltration of terrorists from Poonch and other bordering areas in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Pakistan has made several proposals for the resolution of Jammu and Kashmir including joint management over Jammu and Kashmir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.